



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1997

No. 142

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Ms. GRANGER].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 21, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable KAY GRANGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 8. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 399. An act to amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to establish the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to conduct environmental conflict resolution and training, and for other purposes;

S. 587. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to exchange certain lands located in Hinsdale County, Colorado;

S. 588. An act to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within the Arapaho National Forest and the White River National Forest, Colorado, to include land known as the Slate Creek Addition;

S. 589. An act to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyance involving the Raggeds Wilderness, White River National

Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of earlier erroneous land surveys;

S. 591. An act to transfer the Dillon Ranger District in the Arapaho National Forest to the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado;

S. 595. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located at Bennett Street and Kansas Expressway in Springfield, Missouri, as the "John Griesemer Post Office Building";

S. 916. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 750 Highway 28 East in Taylorsville, Mississippi, as the "Blaine H. Eaton Post Office Building";

S. 973. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 551 Kingstown Road in Wakefield, Rhode Island, as the "David B. Champagne Post Office Building"; and

S. 985. An act to designate the post office located at 194 Ward Street in Paterson, New Jersey, as the "Larry Doby Post Office".

The message also announced that in accordance with sections 1928a-1928d, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] as a member of the Senate delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the 1st session of the 105th Congress, to be held in Bucharest, Romania, October 9-14, 1997.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] for 5 minutes.

### TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, tobacco industry leaders are under attack by

nearly everyone. A tobacco-friendly tax provision that was hidden in the settlement was quickly removed by the Senate and the House once the public became aware of it. But without a tax benefit or higher cigarette prices, or both, there is no way the industry can afford the astronomical \$368.5 billion settlement they have agreed to pay over the next 25 years. The industry makes only \$8.4 billion annual pretax profit.

The tobacco companies deserve every bit of grief they are receiving, but for reasons other than commonly assumed. It is true they profit from selling a dangerous product, but so do automobile, airplane, and gun manufacturers as well as food producers, drug companies, and coffee farmers. When we boil it down, any product used incorrectly or excessively is dangerous. Even oxygen used incorrectly can be dangerous. And most people know tobacco is dangerous without the benefit of the nanny-state inspectors and the bureaucrats' warning label.

Tobacco company executives symbolize much of what is wrong with corporate America and our corrupt system of special interests, favoritism, and interventionism. For decades, Big Tobacco lobbied for and gladly accepted subsidies and trade benefits, while anyone with a grain of common sense knew smoking was a bad habit that adversely affected some people's health. It is no secret that young people could easily become addicted to nicotine.

There were specific gains to be realized from the charade that surrounded tobacco sales. Pretending that smoking was a benign habit made it easier to collect benefits from the nonsmoking taxpayers. And the alternative, arguing for personal responsibility, was hardly in vogue.

Over the past 50-plus years, responsibility for risk incrementally has been shifted from the individual to the State. As we moved further from a free

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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